



**Connecticut Farm Bureau Association**

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**February 25, 2013**

**Testimony in Opposition to: Raised Bills No. 914 AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES AT MUNICIPAL PARKS, No. 916 AN ACT AUTHORIZING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR THE FAULTY, CARELESS OR NEGLIGENT APPLICATION OF PESTICIDES, No. 6440 AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPALITIES AND THE APPLICATION OF LAWN CARE PESTICIDES, No. 6438 AN ACT RESTRICTING THE USE OF METHOPRENE AND RESMETHRIN.**

**and in support of: Raised Bill No. 915 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BOW AND ARROW HUNTING ON SUNDAY ON CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.**

Submitted by: Henry N. Talmage, Executive Director, Connecticut Farm Bureau Association

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*The following testimony is submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Farm Bureau, a statewide nonprofit membership organization of over 5,000 families dedicated to farming and the future of Connecticut agriculture.*

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Members of Environment Committee,

The Connecticut Farm Bureau is concerned with the Raised Bills listed above that pertain to pesticide use. Although not directly impacting agriculture, we are concerned with what appears to be a shift away from science-based decision model to one of individual legislative action that bypasses the processes and oversight of DEEP with regard to pesticides in Connecticut..

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environment (DEEP) through its Pesticide Management Program and pursuant to state pesticide law is charged with evaluation and registration of pesticides in Connecticut. Decisions on whether or not to allow certification or continued use of approved pesticides are determined on a product-by-product and use-by-use basis using applicable research and scientific data including pesticide registration data from the EPA. Evaluation of use for safety, environmental impact and effectiveness of pesticides requires specific and in-depth scientific knowledge that DEEP and EPA professionals possess. In addition DEEP, through the Pesticide Management Program is responsible for certification of pesticide applicators and enforcement of pesticide use laws to ensure pesticides are used properly. We believe the expertise necessary to make professional, science-based decisions on appropriate pesticide use exists with DEEP and that concerns about pesticide certification and use restrictions should be vetted through DEEP and the Pesticide Management Program before individual legislative initiatives are passed that might not be in the best interests of the residents of Connecticut.

Wildlife crop damage continues to be a serious problem facing Connecticut agriculture. The Connecticut Farm Bureau reversed its policy last November against Sunday hunting and therefore we support Raised Bill No. 915. Although this bill restricts Sunday hunting to bow and arrow, the CT Farm Bureau would also support expansion of Sunday hunting to include the use of other approved hunting methods.

**Connecticut Farm Bureau Association - *The Voice of Connecticut Agriculture***